

IOWA BIRD LIFE



Vol. XLIII No. 1

March, 1973

Published by the

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION

IOWA BIRD LIFE - XLIII, 1973

VOL. XLIII No. 1

MARCH 1973

PAGES 1-32

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The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

Publication of the Union: Mimeographed letters, 1923-1928; THE BULLETIN 1929-1930; IOWA BIRD LIFE beginning 1931.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$4.00 a year, single copies \$1.00 each except where supply is limited to five or fewer copies, \$1.25. Subscriptions to the magazine is included in all paid memberships, of which there are five classes as follows: Life Member, \$100.00, payable in four equal installments; Contributing Member, \$10.00 a year; Supporting Member, \$5.00 a year; Regular Member, \$4.00 a year; Junior Member (under 16 years of age), \$1.00 a year.

EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE

235 McCLELLAN BLVD.

DAVENPORT, IOWA 52803

Published quarterly by the Iowa Ornithologists' Union at 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, Iowa. 52803. Second class postage paid at Davenport, Iowa. Subscription \$4.00, single copies \$1.00.

CHRISTMAS COUNT



1972 Christmas Bird Census

JAMES P. ROD
1508 Kellogg
AMES, IOWA

The 1972 Iowa Christmas Bird Census was conducted at only 24 stations this year, down nearly ten from some previous years. However, the 248 observers, working in 84 parties, managed to record a respectable 108 species. Perhaps poor weather toward the end of the count period forced cancellation of some planned counts.

Those species represented by only one individual included Great Blue Heron, Canvasback, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Ruffed Grouse, Glaucous Gull, Red-shafted Flicker, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and several others were represented by two individuals. Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Starling, House Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco and Tree Sparrow were recorded at all 24 locations.

Several species of ducks usually seen were absent this year and hawk numbers were generally down, especially Red-tailed and Marsh with Red-shouldered still low at 5. Fewer observers afield this year may account for many of the differences. The Goshawk was reported from five stations on count day and a number of stations reported it during the count period which is undoubtedly indicative of a cycle rather than any general increase.

Count results indicate that the technique of owl-calling using tape recorders has not really caught on yet. Only a few counts reported Screech, Horned and Barred Owls when nearly every count station should be able to include these three species with some before dawn work with the tape recorder.

Evening Grosbeaks put in a respectable showing with 75 reported but the "winter finches" generally were unspectacular with only moderate numbers of most species present and White-winged Crossbills absent. We did have a total of 3 Pine Grosbeaks, however.

As usual, a number of species considered rare or unusual at this season were seen. The Ferruginous Hawk was well observed on the Ames count and Davenport again had a Glaucous Gull. Shenandoah scored again this year with two rarities; the Red-shafted Flicker and what must rank as the best bird in recent years, two Pinyon Jays. As far as can be determined there are no Iowa records at any season for the Pinyon Jay but it is the compiler's opinion that the species should remain on the hypothetical list for the present until either a specimen or a good photograph is obtained. See the note elsewhere in this issue for more details. Two Myrtle Warblers were counted at Clinton and Des Moines managed a Rose-breasted Grosbeak with another appearing during the count period.

Davenport was again the high count in the state with 81 species followed by Clinton (64), Muscatine (60), Princeton (58), Cedar Rapids (54) and Oakville (53). Because of the reduced number of observers afield and nearly one-fifth fewer reporting stations this year it is difficult to draw any valid conclusions regarding the 1972 Christmas Census or make comparisons with previous counts. We have room for more counts so set your 1973 date early in the count period and let's set some records.

1. AMES (15 mile diameter circle centered on junction of Interstate 35 and relocated Highway 30 to include Nevada cemetery, Sopers Mill, State Forest Nursery and ISU campus) Dec. 17: 3:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Temp. 5-15; wind: 5-15 mph from NW, clear to partly cloudy, several inches snow on ground, rivers 90 percent ice covered. Observers (16) in 5 parties, plus 13 feeder reports: Bill Boon, Kevin Bowen, Barnett Cook, Larry Dow, Paul Hollander, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jefferson, Brian Ladd, Lotus Miller, Wilmer Miller, Doug Rod, Jim Rod (compiler), Jeff Ruprecht, Judy Totemeier, Norman Ward and Jerry Wetteland.

Details of unusual observations: Ferruginous Hawk seen by Dr. Cook in Miller party. All field marks observed at 50 yards.

Other species seen during census period: Goshawk, Belted Kingfisher, White-winged Crossbill.

2. BURLINGTON (15 mile diameter circle center at junction of Highways 34 and 61) Dec. 17: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 8-28; wind: 15-25 mph from NW; mostly sunny, 4 inches snow on ground and Mississippi 90 percent ice covered. Observers (8) in 4 parties: Charles Fuller, Jane Fuller, Anna May Lowther, Jack McLane (compiler), Suzanne McLane, Harrison Moore, Audrey Nieman and Irwin Saarmann.

Other species seen during census period: Field Sparrow.

Comments: Because of ice and snow ducks could not get to down corn and had moved south. Taped owl calls used to bring in many birds.

3. CEDAR RAPIDS (Fifteen mile diameter circle centered on Federal Building, as in previous years; including Cedar Rapids, Cedar Lake, Marion Springs, woodlands, orchards, nurseries, roadsides.) Dec. 16: 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: -2-11; Wind: 20-5 mph from NW, sunny - clear; snow cover 8 inches; lake and river mostly ice-covered. Observers (28) in 5 parties: Sue Appert, Leroy Bata, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Beam, Jeanne Clifton, Wendell Clifton, Dr. Karl Goellner, Eldon Johnson, Beryl Layton, Lucile Liljedahl, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Mefford, Edie Mellgren, Jeff Mellgren, Roberta Oppedahl, William Pusateri, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Rosenberg, Lillian Serbousek (compiler), Barbara Shaffer, Dr. and Mrs. Robert F. Vane, Robert S. Vane, Dr. and Mrs. Peter Wickham, Myra Willis, and Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich Zobac.

Other species seen during census period: Pintail, Wood Duck, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Bald Eagle, Ring-billed Gull, Brown Thrasher and Myrtle Warbler.

4. CLINTON (15 mile diameter circle centered on Elk River Junction, Iowa, same as previous years) Dec. 30: 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp.: 37-52; Wind: 10-25 mph from SW, overcast, rain showers in A.M., clearing, ground bare, river 80 percent ice covered. Observers (11) in 4 parties: Mark Henderson, Fred, Jonathan, and Maurice Leshner, Don Mullison, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), Ernie Sadler, Paul Van Nieuwenhuyse, Norman Ward Jr., and Charles Warrenburg.

Details of unusual observations: Goshawk seen in flight at 40 feet in fair light several times (PCP). Myrtle Warblers seen at Island Cemetery near Sabula, about

a mile from site of the '71 observation. They were seen in spruce trees and were seen and heard for about ten minutes in good daylight. (PCP, DM).

Other species seen during census period: Great Blue Heron, Killdeer.

Comments: Puddle ducks were observed at a duck "feeder" on the north edge of Clinton.

5. DAVENPORT (15 mile diameter circle centered on former toll house location on the Memorial Bridge (I-74), same as previous years) Dec. 17: 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp.: 0-26; wind: 5-20 mph from S, cloudy, clearing in PM, ground covered with four inches of ice encrusted snow, river 80 percent ice covered. Observers (31) in 17 parties: Mrs. Fred Adams, Carl Bengston, Marcella Campbell, Mrs. Ed Carleton, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dau, Dale Dickinson, Tom Doering Jr., Elton Fawks, Tom Frank, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Frink, Tom Goodwin, Jim Harper, Mark Henderson, Mrs. Fred Hunt, Pat Lonacker, Mrs. Richard Martin, Ralph Money, Don Mullison, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), Russ Reidinger, Rick Roderick, Ernie Sadler, R. Kent Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Swanson, Dr. Ralph Troll, and Mr. and Mrs. Warren Wickstrom.

Details of unusual observations: Goshawk, an adult, seen several times in flight at Pine Hill Cemetery in excellent light (MLP, PCP, MH, ES). Glaucous Gull seen at 200' in good light with 20 X scope (EF). Rufous-sided Towhee a regular feeder visitor (PL).

Comments: Second highest species count ever made here, weather nearly perfect.

6. DES MOINES (15 mile diameter circle center: 63 and Center Sts. and including: Denman Woods, Pinehill Cem., Fisher's Lake, Camp Dodge, Greenwood & Ashworth Parks, Walnut Woods, Maffitt Res., Clark's Woods, Easter Lake, Flint Access, Grandview Park, Laurel Hill Cem., Pioneer, Beaverdale, Ashby, Birdland and Union Parks, Saylorville Overlook) Dec. 23: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp.: 27-34; wind: 8 mph from SE to NW, cloudy with some rain, four inches of snow on ground, little open water. Observers (17) in 5 parties, plus one at feeder: Jack Borg, Margaret Brooke, Joe K. Brown, Dorothy Brown, Woodward Brown (compiler), Beth Clampitt, Lyle DeGarmo, Mrs. DeGarmo, Oliver Graves, Lester Haskell, Gladys Haskell, Richard Mooney, Pauline Mooney, Dr. Harold Peasley, Helen Peasley, Mary Elizabeth Peck, Lurene Wartens and Mary Ellen Wartens.

Details of unusual observations: Female Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Peasleys' feeder for days, also Towhee (spotted variety). A first-year male Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared at a feeder in a different location on 28 December.

7. DUBUQUE (15 mile diameter circle centered on Center Grove Cemetery including Linwood, John Deere, Sherrill, Durango, Peosta Valley, Dubuque's Grave and Miss. River sloughs) Dec. 16: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: -5 -5; Wind: 15 mph from NW, clear, 9" of snow, river frozen except at lower bridge. Observers (7) in 3 parties: Frieda Crossley, George Crossley (compiler), Patricia Heidenreich, Joan Higley, Delbert Ludwig, Joyce Naffier and Wanita Wiederaenders.

Comments: This is an early count but preceded by extreme cold and much snow. Snipe seen at larger springs, also Rusty Blackbirds.

8. HAWARDEN (15 mile diameter circle centered east of Hawarden and including Oak Grove Park, Rock-Sioux access and points along Big Sioux River) Dec. 28: 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Temp.: 26-45; wind: 15-20 mph from SE, clear to thin overcast - patches of snow only in protected areas, river 15 percent open, ponds frozen. One Observer, Ron Muilenburg.

Comments: High wind caused difficulty in hearing, had hoped to see more winter birds.

9. IOWA CITY (15 mile diameter circle, center near North Liberty, same as previous years) Dec. 23: 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 26-34; wind: 5 mph from SE, fog in AM, cloudy p.m., some light rain at 4 p.m., four inches snow with light crust, lakes frozen, river open below reservoir. Observers (11) in 3 parties: J. Ferguson, N. Halmi, R. L. Hulbary, Bill, Fred and Tom Kent (compiler), D. Peterson, J. C. Taylor, Rob and Bob Vane and P. Wickham.

Details of unusual observations: Goshawk seen twice by competent observers.

Other species seen during census period: Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, Brown-headed Cowbird, Pine Siskin, Red Crossbill, White-throated Sparrow, Snow Bunting.

10. LAMONI (15 mile diameter circle centered at junction of I-35 and U. S. 69; open crop and pasture land 90 percent, timber 10 percent) Dec. 23: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 30-35; wind: calm, clear a.m., cloudy p.m., ground bare, streams frozen. Observers (9) in 3 parties: Mrs. Dean Ballantyne, Mrs. Wallace DeLong, Mrs. Paul Elswick, Bill, David, Jim, and J. Donald Gillaspey (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Silver.

Details of unusual observations: Goshawk observed for 30 min. at 100 ft. on Dec. 27 in Gillaspey lot eating a pheasant. The Brown Thrasher has appeared daily for about a month at Silver's feeder.

Other species seen during census period: Goshawk, Barred Owl, Brown Creeper, Mockingbird, Harris Sparrow.

Comments: Red-headed Woodpeckers more numerous than any time in last 25 years, probably due to the abundance of dead elms.

11. LIVERMORE (15 mile diameter circle with town of Livermore as center, included town of LuVerne and City Park west of Livermore, wooded areas near Des Moines River, also Humboldt County Wildlife Area north of Humboldt) Dec. 26: 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp.: 0-15; wind: 5 mph from S to NW; mostly cloudy, some snow cover, some open water. Observers (2) in one party: Dennis Holmes and Alice Krauser.

Details of unusual observations: Our most interesting observation was the Long-eared Owl. He was seen in the LuVerne Cemetery at dusk. For sometime we didn't see it well enough to identify but when he perched on a fence pole his cat-like ears were obvious.

Comments: Most interesting day. The other person involved in the count was a house guest, Miss Alice Krauser of Macomb, Ill., a member of Nat'l Audubon, Illinois Audubon and the Macomb Bird Club.

12. MARSHALLTOWN (15 mile diameter circle centered on E 27 one mile east of Highway 14 and including Union Grove Lake, roadsides and open farm lands) Dec. 16: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Temp.: 3-9; wind: 5 mph from NW; clear 8" of snow on the ground, Lake 90 percent frozen, Iowa River partially open in places, some small streams open. Observers (16) in 4 parties, plus 4 at feeders: Dorothy Brunner, Grace Chamberlin, Mr. and Mrs. George Crowther, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Eige, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Glasgow, Ruth Knights, Mrs. A. H. McFarland, Mrs. John Mowry, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Prescott, Mr. and Mrs. Burton Roeder, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Savage (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. James Wignall, and Ruth Zorn.

Other species seen during census period: Great Horned Owl, Robin.

13. MCKAIN'S ACCESS (15-mile diameter circle centered on McKain's Access (Skunk River) in SW Washington Co., and including Lake Darling State Park, river bottom, country roads, fields, railroad right-of-way) Dec. 28: 7:30 a.m. to

4 p.m. Temp.: 23-37; wind: 5-30 mph from SE; bright sun with some thin clouds; 3 inches packed snow on ground; no open water at lake; some thawing taking place. Observers (4) in one party: Kathy Fisher (compiler), Ron Fisher, Oneita Fisher and Mike Zahs.

Details of unusual observations: Peregrine Falcon carefully observed at Lake Darling, twice in flight, once perched, over period of 15 minutes. Fast flight, crow-size, black cap and facial markings observed by all members of party, at distances of approximately 35-100 yards.

Other species seen during census period: Rough-legged Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Bobwhite, Barred Owl, Mockingbird, Meadowlark (sp), and White-crowned Sparrow.

Comments: Count numbers were down, probably due to the "nice" day, rather than any real decrease in bird population. Tree Sparrows are in short supply, however; only 2 or 3 at our feeders, when normally there are a couple dozen. Few observed in "wild" too, in comparison with other years. First Christmas record for Bluebirds here; feeding on sumac berries at Lake Darling. Pine Siskins also a first; one large flock sheltering in brush-lined farm lane.

14. MUSCATINE (15 mile diameter circle, center Lock and Dam 16, same as previous years) Dec. 16: 5:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: -2-10; wind: 10-20 mph from N. W.; clear, ground covered by four inches of ice covered snow, river 95 percent ice covered. Observers (9) in 3 parties: Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Frink, Ralph Money, Don Mullison, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), David Rader, Ernie Sadler, and Mr. and Mrs. Warren Wickstrom.

Details of unusual observations: The Pine Grosbeak, a male, was seen at Greenwood Cemetery, Muscatine, with Red Crossbills. It was observed at 30 feet with 15X40 binoculars, in good light (MLP, PCP).

Comments: Surprising lack of Marsh Hawks in what is normally excellent territory for the species.

15. OAKVILLE (15 mile diameter circle centered four miles east of New Boston, Ill., same as previous years) Dec. 31: 6:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp.: 24-30; wind 15-30 mph from W; overcast, ground bare, river 80 percent ice covered, - Observers (10) in 4 parties: Gerald Gill, Richard and Ted Greer, Mark Henderson, Don Mullison, Wesley Orr, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), Ernie Sadler, Merlin Shike, and Norman Ward Jr.

Other species seen during census period: Belted Kingfisher.

16. OSKALOOSA (15 mile diameter circle centered on the Mahaska County Courthouse and including Keomah St. Park and lake) Dec. 18: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp.: 8-12; wind: 5 mph from SE; complete snow cover and very little open water. Observers (2) in one party: Keith Layton, Irene Layton.

Comments: At Mrs. Walter Campbell's feeding station we closely observed the White-throated Sparrows, 3 Red-breasted Nuthatches and most unusual of all the Rufous-sided Towhee and others.

17. OTTUMWA (15 mile diameter circle, center Ayres home, 922 N. Green St., including Ottumwa Park and ponds, Morrell ponds, Forest Lake Baptist Camp, Ottumwa Air Base, Rock Bluff Road and Ottumwa Cemetery) Dec. 31: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 23-22; wind: 19 mph from 16; overcast with some light snow during day. Ground frozen with snow in sheltered spots only; shallow ponds frozen; small amount of open water on deeper ponds; some open water on river. Observers (15) in one party: Judge and Mrs. Charles C. Ayres, Jr. (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Corzette, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Fulton, Mrs. Blossom Hallberg, Keith Layton, Lee Pulis, Mrs. Ted Schooley, Pearle C. Walker, Mrs. Millie Wilson, Mrs. Alvin and Gary Wymore.

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

9

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Hairy Woodpecker	22	4	17	9	29	14	2	1	8	3	1	3	2	2	9	10	8	1	7	2	8	11	1	5	169
Downy Woodpecker	63	35	39	30	101	54	9	7	29	43	7	33	7	31	72	5	8	28	25	26	28	5	56	721	
Horned Lark	19	202	48	11	340	17	38	16	31	9	2	53	9	288	18	137	17	28	113	13	813	20	17	10	2172
Blue Jay	62	161	102	226	178	79	28	3	115	198	4	75	39	158	163	11	17	9	113	57	130	20	17	83	2048
Common Crow	157	296	252	434	268	350	90	38	541	56	16	181	14	49	380	7	76	5	318	12	21	22	20	202	3865
Phoebe Jay	101	102	125	96	232	169	12	26	64	104	14	95	22	63	77	3	12	11	47	23	36	47	8	56	1356
Black-cap Chickadee	17	44	11	36	86	27	3	5	8	4	2	5	17	29	25	2	7	2	19	6	5	5	10	368	
Tufted Titmouse	56	30	28	33	70	80	8	1	23	23	2	24	12	18	27	2	5	5	26	6	1	5	26	529	
White-thr. Nuthatch	12	5	3	10	15	3	2	1	5	2	2	1	1	4	1	3	2	1	1	7	5	1	7	75	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	14	1	4	8	4	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	4	1	3	4	3	
Brown Creeper	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	
Winter Wren	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	
Carolina Wren	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	
Mockingbird	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	
Brown Thrasher	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	
Robin	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	
Herm. Thrush	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	
Eastern Bluebird	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Cedar Waxwing	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	
Loggerhead Shrike	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	
Shrike sp	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	
Starling	435	334	3500	749	2565	3067	738	110	206	221	25	406	39	1769	954	182	300	17	1603	60	264	5000	58	452	23564
Myrtle Warbler	1787	1027	575	2072	3747	2776	706	75	189	670	140	605	230	2835	2439	500	200	175	2445	160	2693	500	121	1100	27687
House Sparrow	22	5	5	3	24	2	2	2	2	2	1	30	14	1	1	1	1	2	2	47	1	40	1	16	90
Eastern Meadowlark	33	8	74	149	7214	3	2	3	2	36	144	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	828	2	416	5	10	8354	
Western Meadowlark	33	8	74	149	7214	3	2	3	2	36	144	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	828	2	416	5	10	8354	
Meadowlark sp	33	8	74	149	7214	3	2	3	2	36	144	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	828	2	416	5	10	8354	
Red-winged Blackbird	20	5	63	1	716	11	2	2	2	2	1	7	2	2	2	1	1	1	43	1	25	1	12	300	
Rusty Blackbird	20	5	63	1	716	11	2	2	2	2	1	7	2	2	2	1	1	1	43	1	25	1	12	300	
Brewer's Blackbird	20	5	63	1	716	11	2	2	2	2	1	7	2	2	2	1	1	1	43	1	25	1	12	300	
Common Grackle	68	159	108	123	238	142	10	3	74	66	4	57	33	293	217	16	3	7	68	13	47	19	14	161	1943
Brown-headed Cowbird	68	159	108	123	238	142	10	3	74	66	4	57	33	293	217	16	3	7	68	13	47	19	14	161	1943
Cardinal	68	159	108	123	238	142	10	3	74	66	4	57	33	293	217	16	3	7	68	13	47	19	14	161	1943
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	12	12	5	15	7	2	5	18	5	5	1	5	5	17	18	6	50	2	1	1	1	1	75	75	
Evening Grosbeak	21	22	15	10	29	9	5	18	5	5	1	5	5	17	18	6	50	2	1	1	1	1	75	75	
Purple Finch	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	
Pine Grosbeak	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	
Common Redpoll	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	
Pine Siskin	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	
American Goldfinch	104	112	50	39	68	69	13	14	62	58	1	9	43	62	123	4	75	30	30	12	18	125	27	1018	
Red-crossbill	104	112	50	39	68	69	13	14	62	58	1	9	43	62	123	4	75	30	30	12	18	125	27	1018	
Red-sided Towhee	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	
Rufous-sided Towhee	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	
Vesper Sparrow	456	709	351	420	1167	302	107	80	278	198	25	412	170	2557	747	250	50	50	788	82	645	302	40	586	10792
Slate-colored Junco	456	709	351	420	1167	302	107	80	278	198	25	412	170	2557	747	250	50	50	788	82	645	302	40	586	10792
Oregon Junco	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	7	
Tree Sparrow	174	399	128	443	796	136	40	350	358	242	23	40	116	1963	626	111	100	15	1444	65	670	577	40	332	9177
Field Sparrow	174	399	128	443	796	136	40	350	358	242	23	40	116	1963	626	111	100	15	1444	65	670	577	40	332	9177
Harris Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	30	30
White-crowned Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	30	30
White-throated Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	30	30
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	30	30
Swamp Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	30	30
Song Sparrow	22	18	31	25	91	30	2	42	42	25	16	11	41	28	2	1	1	1	56	1	10	5	2	18	468
Lapland Longspur	23	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	40	40
Snow Bunting	23	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	40	40
No. of Species	46	47	54	64	81	46	41	25	46	37	23	30	26	60	53	28	39	23	58	31	44	35	24	38	108
No. of Observers	16	8	28	11	31	17	7	1	11	9	2	16	4	9	10	2	15	2	6	7	10	4	14	10	248
No. of Parties	5	4	5	4	17	5	3	1	3	3	1	4	1	3	4	1	1	1	2	3	5	3	1	4	84

* See data under station in body of article. Total Iowa list - 108 species

Details of unusual observations: Immature Golden Eagle: Observed $\frac{3}{4}$ mile S. E. Cliffland Bridge on Des Moines River 6 mi. SE of Ottumwa. Flew from perched position across road over open field to river. In sight for several minutes with excellent opportunity for observation. White patch at base of primaries of wings; sharply defined, wide, dark terminal band on white tail, much larger than Rough-legged Hawk.

Other species seen during census period: Barred Owl, Brown Thrasher and Cedar Waxwing.

Comments: Mockingbird in the Ray Fairbank yard in Ottumwa where one had been banded by the Ayres in February of 1972; also seen there -- 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches.

18. PINE HOLLOW (15 mile diameter circle to include Farley, Iowa and White Pine Hollow Preserve) Dec. 18: 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Temp.: -4-18; wind: 12 mph from S; cloudy to clear, 9" snow on ground. Observers (2) in one party: George Crossley (compiler) and Howard Higley.

Comments: Snipe in spring-fed ditch.

19. PRINCETON (15 mile diameter circle centered at Folletts, Iowa, same as previous years) Dec. 23: 5:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 28-31; wind: 5-12 mph from S. E.; overcast, ground covered by two inches of old snow, river 50 percent ice covered. Observers (6) in 2 parties: Mark Henderson, Don Mullison, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), Ernie Sadler and Paul Van Nieuwehuysen.

Other species seen during census period: Redhead.

20. RATHBUN LAKE (15 mile diameter circle centered south and midway of the Lake covered as nearly as possible with 7 observers) Dec. 30: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 22-18; wind: 20 mph from N; overcast, practically no snow cover. Observers (7) in 3 parties: Jeanne and Wayne Davis, Bill and Jim Gillaspey, Maxine Morrow, Bondene Rissler and Charlotte Scott (compiler).

Details of unusual observations: The Goshawk was viewed from all angles by 3 observers and all were certain of identification. It was chasing a flock of pigeons when first observed.

Other species seen during census period: Bald Eagle

Comments: Mockingbirds are becoming much more common in this area. For the third winter I am having one at my feeding station.

21. SHENANDOAH (15 mile diameter circle centered on Farragut to include Riverton, orchards and woods 45 percent, coniferous 10 percent, farmland and prairie 45 percent) Dec. 17: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 15-30; wind: 20 mph from N; sunny, skies clear, ground snow-covered, rivers mostly frozen. Observers (10) in 5 parties: Donald Burrichter, Barbara Cunningham, Mr. and Mrs. Fitzhugh Diggs, Wayne Phipps, Mrs. Eldon Spears, Mrs. Edward Vaughan, Susan Vaughan, Mrs. Donald Waters, Mrs. Emmet Zollars (compiler), plus Mrs. Walter Kroll and Lewis Clark at feeders.

Details of unusual observations: Pinyon Jays were observed by Mrs. Donald Walters and Mrs. Emmet Zollars after hearing the unusual call. Observed within 20 feet. These birds have been seen and heard by the residents of the south area of Shenandoah. (See longer note)

Other species seen during census period: Short-eared Owl, Mockingbird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cowbird.

22. SIOUX CITY (15 mile diameter circle centered at Sioux City Auditorium) Dec. 16: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: -8-9; wind: calm; clear and bright, 6 inches of loose snow on ground - Missouri River open. Observers (4) in 3 parties, plus 3 at feeders: Mr. and Mrs. Ray Durst, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Hanna, Robert Nickolson

(compiler), Mrs. Ralph Payne, Dr. Morgan Webb.

Details of unusual observations: Two Pine Grosbeaks observed by compiler at Logan Park Cemetery, feeding with a few Red Crossbills.

Other species seen during census period: Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch.

23. WAPSINICON RIVER VALLEY (15 mile diameter circle centered in Sec. 2, Mayfield Township, Bremer County to include Big Wood Sweet Marsh and Crane Creek) Jan. 1: 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Temp.: 17-20; wind: 5-30 mph from SW; cloudy, snowstorm throughout day, ice on ground, rivers open. Observers (14) in one party: Myrle Burk (compiler), Antoinette Camarata, Richard Evans, Russell Hays, Harvey and Anna Kitchgatter, Rick and Bess McGeough, Tim and Diane McIntyre, Lowell and Eleanor Miller, John Osness and Mary Anne Rizzo.

24. WHEATLAND (15 mile diameter circle centered on Wheatland, Clinton County, Iowa) Jan. 1: 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp.: 17-25; wind: 10-20 mph from WNW; clear skies with no snow cover. Observers (10) in 4 parties: C. Esther Copp, Don Mullison, Peter C. Petersen, Tom Rowold (compiler) Jeanette Ruprecht, Ernie Sadler, Bret Smith, Gregg Smith, Charles Wentworth and June Wentworth. Plus; Roy Hansen, Ruby Hansen, Landa Rowold, Teresa Rowold and Tim Rowold at feeders.

Other species seen during census period: Belted Kingfisher, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle.

Comments: Tape recordings of owl calls and flicker distress calls were used to stimulate responses by owls and other species.

BANDING REPORT



Iowa Bird Banding Summary for 1972

KEITH & IRENE LAYTON

201 High Ave. West

OSKALOOSA, IOWA

I.O.U. past president Dean M. Roosa requested to be replaced in this job of summarizing banding results, after so capably taking care of it every year since it was first published in March, 1963. A good job well done, Dean, we feel honored to be selected to follow you.

Another great banding year has ended for licensed Iowa banders. We regret that a few reports have not reached us at the time of this writing, hope they can be added by publication deadline. If not, let's do better next year. Bird populations in 1972 in general seemed to be very good, with a few "firsts", a few "onlys", some "I should have caughts", "howcum you had 'em and I didn't", etc., but it was great! Most unusual bird seen by us had to be the Blue Grosbeak found in a net at Ottumwa by Irene Layton not 15 minutes after she and Darleen Ayres had mentioned it as one of the few "possibles", but not likely, to be caught yet on that particular outing. Banded by the Ayres, it joined an even more rare catch later in the season, a Clark's Nutcracker, no less! Correct us if the latter is not a first for Iowa. (Second record, First banding - see other notes - ed.)

Let's start a new club! How about calling it, the "ONLY ONE CLUB", open to all to join, no dues, no officers, no obligations -- no foolin'! Just band the only bird of any species some year, and you are IN! Meet the charter members:

CHARLES & DARLEEN AYRES, with their first and only Blue Grosbeak, plus two new species for the Iowa list, Clark's Nutcracker and Hooded Warbler, give the Club a BIG sendoff! They also led private banders in the number of individuals banded.

RICHARD D. CRAWFORD donated two, a Pied-billed Grebe, and a Black Tern. Nice going, and welcome to the banding summary, R. D.

GENEVIEVE DeLONG gave us a real goodie, and rare, the only Henslow's Sparrow.

FITZHUGH & HAZEL DIGGS added two hard to get ones, a White-rumped Sandpiper, and a Sanderling, the latter a first for their life banding list. The Diggs' tabulation for their Nebraska banding activities, NOT included in our summary, includes 8 species not on their Iowa banding report.

KEITH & IRENE LAYTON, real happy to add, a Bewick's Wren, and our first LeConte's Sparrow, and a seldom seen Least Bittern! A banner year for us, and we sure enjoyed it!

PETER C. PETERSEN came through with three dandies, a Pine Warbler, Cooper's Hawk, and a Cape May Warbler, all fine catches.

JIM ROD, our hard working vice-president got a Prothonotary Warbler - nice job, Jim.

Our welcome also to John Bowles, Pella, Iowa at Central College, an I.O.U. member since 1963, joins our banding summary this year for the first time. It is good to have you with us!

Our sincere thanks go to the Ayres for "sharing" one of the two Chuck-wills-widows netted on our outing at the Forest Lake Baptist Camp south of Ottumwa. It was a big, BIG first, (and possibly last) for us. Our thanks also to Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Corzette, the Camp managers, for their hospitality, you'd all love them. The American Goldfinch, our state bird since 1935, led all others with 2,013 banded, followed by the Slate-colored Junco with 1,215, and a rather poor third this year at 811 was the Purple Finch. About half the Mallards were experimentally banded.

Following is a list of the Iowa bird banders who reported to us and the number of species and individual birds banded by them in 1972:

Judge and Mrs. Charles Ayres, Ottumwa	123	5,402
John B. Bowles, Pella	39	114
Gladys Black, Pleasantville	25	121
Dr. Myrle Burk, Waterloo	inactive in 1972	
R. D. Crawford, Ames	39	291
Mrs. W. C. DeLong, Lamoni	78	948
Mr. and Mrs. Fitzhugh Diggs, Hamburg	99	1,875
Iowa Conservation Commission	14	6,785
Mr. and Mrs. Keith D. Layton, Oskaloosa	130	3,694
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Lonnecker, Bettendorf	57	482
Peter C. Petersen, Davenport	104	2,952
Jim Rod, Ames	85	797
Dean M. Roosa, Goldfield	2	27
Mrs. E. L. Walters, Essex	25	114
Mrs. E. C. Zollars, Shenandoah	77	821
Totals	178	24,423

Pied-billed Grebe	1	Downy Woodpecker	217
Green Heron	8	Eastern Kingbird	39
American Bittern	4	Great Crested Flycatcher	34
Least Bittern	1	Eastern Phoebe	70
Canada Goose	148	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	51
Mallard	1,178	Acadian Flycatcher	50
Black Duck	1	Traill's Flycatcher	55
Pintail	44	Least Flycatcher	174
Green-winged Teal	32	Eastern Wood Pewee	32
Blue-winged Teal	1,001	Olive-sided Flycatcher	7
American Widgeon	1	Empidonax sp. Flycatcher	5
Shoveler	3	Bank Swallow	314
Wood Duck	981	Rough-winged Swallow	32
Redhead	26	Barn Swallow	69
Lesser Scaup	2	Cliff Swallow	97
Ruddy Duck	19	Purple Martin	40
Sharp-shinned Hawk	34	Blue Jay	326
Cooper's Hawk	1	Clark's Nutcracker	1
Red-tailed Hawk	21	Common Crow	3
Broad-winged Hawk	3	Black-capped Chickadee	257
Sparrow Hawk	18	Tufted Titmouse	99
Bobwhite	9	White-breasted Nuthatch	62
Virginia Rail	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	14
Sora	2	Brown Creeper	91
American Coot	101	House Wren	325
Killdeer	9	Winter Wren	23
Common Snipe	3	Bewick's Wren	1
American Woodcock	2	Carolina Wren	4
Spotted Sandpiper	7	Long-billed Marsh Wren	7
Pectoral Sandpiper	11	Mockingbird	16
White-rumped Sandpiper	1	Catbird	809
Least Sandpiper	32	Brown Thrasher	266
Semipalmated Sandpiper	35	Robin	780
Sanderling	1	Wood Thrush	50
Black Tern	1	Hermit Thrush	73
Mourning Dove	3,313	Swainson's Thrush	318
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	17	Gray-cheeked Thrush	94
Black-billed Cuckoo	9	Veery	49
Screech Owl	8	Eastern Bluebird	76
Great Horned Owl	9	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2
Saw-whet Owl	10	Golden-crowned Kinglet	204
Chuck-will's-widow	2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	445
Whip-poor-will	19	Cedar Waxwing	134
Common Nighthawk	13	Loggerhead Shrike	4
Chimney Swift	8	Starling	54
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	30	White-eyed Vireo	9
Belted Kingfisher	5	Bell's Vireo	8
Yellow-shafted Flicker	133	Yellow-throated Vireo	7
Red-bellied Woodpecker	40	Solitary Vireo	56
Red-headed Woodpecker	94	Red-eyed Vireo	250
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	16	Philadelphia Vireo	30
Hairy Woodpecker	29	Warbling Vireo	25

Black-and-white Warbler	121	Baltimore Oriole	132
Prothonotary Warbler	1	Rusty Blackbird	8
Golden-winged Warbler	6	Common Grackle	297
Blue-winged Warbler	4	Brown-headed Cowbird	110
Tennessee Warbler	117	Scarlet Tanager	20
Orange-crowned Warbler	212	Cardinal	200
Nashville Warbler	239	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	360
Parula Warbler	11	Blue Grosbeak	1
Yellow Warbler	46	Indigo Bunting	253
Magnolia Warbler	80	Dickcissel	28
Cape May Warbler	1	Evening Grosbeak	16
Black-throated Blue Warbler ..	3	Purple Finch	811
Myrtle Warbler	347	Common Redpoll	660
Black-throated Green Warbler ..	15	Pine Siskin	242
Blackburnian Warbler	3	American Goldfinch	2,013
Chestnut-sided Warbler	59	Red Crossbill	8
Bay-breasted Warbler	39	White-winged Crossbill	5
Blackpoll Warbler	11	Rufous-sided Towhee	19
Pine Warbler	1	Savannah Sparrow	29
Palm Warbler	25	Grasshopper Sparrow	11
Ovenbird	178	LeConte's Sparrow	1
Northern Waterthrush	73	Henslow's Sparrow	1
Louisiana Waterthrush	2	Vesper Sparrow	19
Kentucky Warbler	6	Lark Sparrow	6
Connecticut Warbler	2	Slate-colored Junco	1,215
Mourning Warbler	26	Tree Sparrow	264
Yellowthroat	182	Chipping Sparrow	71
Yellow-breasted Chat	6	Clay-colored Sparrow	11
Hooded Warbler	1	Field Sparrow	105
Wilson's Warbler	62	Harris' Sparrow	76
Canada Warbler	34	White-crowned Sparrow	28
American Redstart	96	White-throated Sparrow	645
House Sparrow	16	Fox Sparrow	87
Eastern Meadowlark	10	Lincoln's Sparrow	216
Western Meadowlark	4	Swamp Sparrow	97
Yellow-headed Blackbird	51	Song Sparrow	254
Red-winged Blackbird	312	Total individuals	24,423
Orchard Oriole	25		

First Clark's Nutcracker for Wapello County

JUDGE CHARLES G. AYRES, JR.

922 N. Green St.

OTTUMWA, IOWA

Early in October, 1972, Virgil Corzette, resident manager of the Forest Lake Baptist Camp located near Ottumwa, Iowa, and I had discussed the advisability of cutting down several tall, dead trees at the camp. Considering the matter we found that a total of at least 25 species of birds seemed to use the trees in which to perch or feed and so decided to let them stand. On Saturday, October 14th, we were glad of that decision.

The day started off cool and overcast and the strands of our mist nets did not show up quite as clearly as on sunny days. Fall migration was well under way and many birds were passing through on their way to their wintering grounds. White-throated and Fox Sparrows, Robins, Hermit Thrushes, Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets, and Slate-colored Juncos among other birds were making their appearances. My wife, Darleen, was banding at the time and Virgil and his wife, Jean, together with Blossom Hallberg and Eva Darbyshire, all members of the Ottumwa Bird Club, were helping her. I was doing nothing in particular, something which my wife says I do extremely well.

Suddenly Eva directed our attention to the tall trees in which several Red-headed Woodpeckers were displaying considerable displeasure at the presence of a larger bird. Closer examination revealed that it was a pearl-gray color, lighter about the face, with black wings which had prominent white patches in the secondaries. The tail was white except for two black center feathers. The bill was black and strongly built. At times the bird acted like a woodpecker as it searched for food on the trees and at other times it resembled a flycatcher, darting out for a distance of perhaps a hundred feet to catch a flying insect which it would bring back for leisurely consumption. Many times Darleen and I had seen this species of bird in the western mountains, usually at high elevations. However, to see one of them in Iowa and particularly in Wapello County was certainly a surprise. The bird was a Clark's Nutcracker, *Nucifraga columbiana* (Wilson).

Capt. William Clark, famous explorer, who was the first one to mention the nutcracker and after whom it was named by Alexander Wilson, thought the bird was a woodpecker and we observed mannerisms reminding us of that order. But it also resembled a crow though smaller and this resemblance had caused Wilson to describe it as a crow and to name it the Clark's Crow. We saw our particular nutcracker several times later in the day and on one occasion we did put up several other nets near another place where the bird was looking for food, but they produced no results as far as catching it was concerned.

The next morning, October 15th, it was even colder and the nets were covered with frost when we unfurled and pulled them down in catching position. When the nets are down we visit them at regular and frequent intervals. The first net we visited that morning on our second round caused us about as great a thrill as we had experienced when we caught the first Chuck-wills-widow to be banded in Iowa, for in that net was the first Clark's Nutcracker to be caught by a bird bander for banding in Iowa as far as we knew.

When Darleen saw it she screamed so enthusiastically that I am sure she must have been heard in Ottumwa eight miles away. In seconds she reached the net where the rare visitor rested quietly in the soft strands. Quickly she took it from the net and placed it in a bag so it would not be injured. We took it back to our temporary headquarters where we banded, examined and photographed it, all of which the nutcracker took in stride, seemingly as much interested in watching us as we were in studying it. Indeed during the time the bird was with us it gave less evidence of being disturbed or excited than have many of the Bluejays and woodpeckers we have banded and certainly its audible protests were almost nil. After attending church the Corzettes rejoined us and were as delighted as we were that this new bird had been caught. They are very proud of the camp and have a good right to be. It is not only a beautiful place but in the past three years has produced some fine banding records.

News that this new species had been caught quickly brought the members of the bird club who had been present when the bird had been seen the day before and

in addition Pearle C. Walker, Joan Schooley, and Bernard and Florence Fulton. Neither the presence of strangers nor the lack of mountains appeared to bother the nutcracker which upon release flew to the tall, dead trees, perched for a few moments examining its newly acquired bit of jewelry, then went to work at the sensible task of looking for food. It was indeed fortunate that those dead trees had not been cut down.



First Clarke's Nutcracker Banded In Iowa
Photo by Charles Ayres

One of the results which follows the seeing and banding of a new bird is that a desire for further knowledge is stimulated. To satisfy this we used some of the books in our library and learned that the nutcracker builds a thick-walled, deep cuplike nest in conifers in which are deposited from 2 to 4 greenish eggs which are spotted with gray-drab or brown. The bird is omnivorous though it seems to have a preference for pinion nuts if available and is said to eat the shells as well as the kernels.

It is apparent that some of the nutcrackers, after raising their families, move up and down the mountains on which they live and some of them wander for considerable distances. Why this one turned up in Wapello County, Iowa, we will never know. Perhaps it took off from some mountain and was caught up in a strong eastward air current or, it may have wandered in search of food. Whatever the reason - whether it was quest for food, a strong air stream, or just wanderlust - we were happy to have that Clark's Nutcracker visit the Forest Lake Baptist Camp where God's handiwork may be seen and enjoyed by so many.



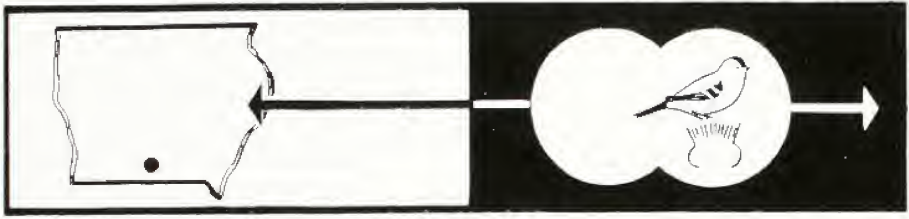
I.O.U. Spring Convention

Spring 1973 will see both the birds and the birders covering on Des Moines for another fine IOU convention. The dates are May 12 and 13, 1973, and our host will be the Des Moines Audubon Society. Considering the central location of Des Moines we expect to see all the old faces and lots of new ones.

In accordance with the views of most persons at the Waterloo convention we are dispensing with the Friday night get-together this year to make the weekend a little shorter for those who must drive long distances. Saturday morning there will be an informal field trip scheduled for those who arrive early and wish to get in some birding. Registration will get underway at 9:15 AM Saturday morning at the Fleur Drive Holiday Inn. Saturday programs and the evening banquet will be held there also. Our banquet speakers this year are Joe and Dorothy Brown, members of the host club and long-time members of IOU. "The Birds of Music; the Music of Birds" is the title of their presentation which promises to be fascinating.

Sunday morning field trips will leave shortly after breakfast and cover a number of excellent local areas with habitat to satisfy every birder. The Sunday noon meal will be served at the Walnut Woods Park lodge where we will also have compilation of the field trips and a short final business meeting. The shortened schedule should make for a more relaxing weekend and still leave plenty of time to visit.

Advance registration forms, further particulars on the program, and information about field trips and motel accommodations will be found on the enclosed flyers. Circle May 12 and 13 on your calendar now and reserve a weekend with us. -- Jim Rod.



Birding Areas of Iowa; South Central Iowa

J. DONALD GILLASPEY
LAMONI, IOWA

Southern Iowa -- Clarke, Decatur, Ringgold, and Union Counties.

Four County Area: app. 1,944 square miles

Four County Population: 1910 - 56,603 1970 - 37,248

There was probably greater everyday interest in birds in the area 50 years ago than at present. Most farms had an orchard with Eastern Bluebirds in it, and a grove with Screech Owls. Every mile of country road had Red-headed Woodpeckers flying from pole to pole. There were about three times as many people living on the farms in the area. Travel by horse or by Model T Ford car was leisurely enough to permit constant observation of nature. But times change, the orchards died away, and the groves were killed by the drouths of the thirties. Neither was replaced. Now days, T-V and commercial recreation make increasing demands on personal time.

The four counties in this report are in the center of an area of about 14 counties in southern Iowa which have distinctly different conditions than the rest of the state. These conditions certainly have some effect on the bird population and a brief description may be of interest.

Because of the character of the underground water supply it has been found necessary to build artificial lakes of 100 to 300 acres for town water supplies and to build farm ponds of half an acre to 10 acres in size for farm water supplies. The towns of Afton, Creston, Lamoni, Mt. Ayr, and Osceola each have one or more such lakes to provide the city water supply. We can only make an estimate of the number of farm ponds. (They can be actually counted on the aerial photographs in the county ASC offices). There are probably more than ten thousand of these farm ponds in the four counties. This figures about an average of five per square mile, which is exceeded in many instances.

The town lakes attract many waterfowl during migration. Many shorebirds are attracted at times of low water level when shorelines are exposed. The White Pelican is one regular migrant attracted. This area also seems to be on the flyway of the geese that frequent the Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge at Chillicothe, Missouri. Each of the lakes has an area of 100 acres or more surrounding it which is undisturbed grass and weed cover, with some tree plantings. This provides nesting habitat. The size of these lakes is such that most water birds are still within binocular range even when on the far side.

The farm ponds vary in condition. Some have bare, trampled mud banks; some are fenced and have undisturbed grass cover; other fenced ponds may have shrub and tree plantings in addition. Each pond is a little oasis and refuge for bird life providing water, food, nesting habitat, and protective cover. Most of these ponds seep water to some extent through the dams. Quite often during migration Common Snipe can be found in the bog area below the dam. A birding advantage at the ponds is that the observer can approach out of sight from below and behind the dam and get a really close-up view of anything on the pond. The Red-winged Blackbird has probably profited most by the creation of these ten thousand ponds. Swallows feed over them; and a wide ranging Belted Kingfisher is not an unusual visitor.

In years past hundreds of miles of osage orange trees were planted for hedge fence on the prairies of the area. This produced a very thorny hedge about 20 feet high and 10 feet wide. There are still remnants of these hedge rows in the area, lengths of a quarter of a mile being easy to find yet. They are especially attractive to the Brown Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, Mourning Dove, and Bobwhite, besides many others. In more recent years there have been scattered plantings of multi-flora rose fence, which provides winter food and is a lure for Mockingbirds.

Another unique feature of our area is the many small cemeteries. Decatur County has a total of 54, Ringgold County 40. These are small, lonely, isolated spots where bird life is seldom disturbed. All have a gravel road connecting to the main hard-surfaced roads. All are open to the public. There is always the possibility of finding a rare species here. Frequently a Great Horned Owl or a Mockingbird can be flushed. The cemeteries have very few large conifer plantings, but there are enough small bushes and vines to attract numerous birds.

The field feeding of cattle in winter attracts certain species of birds. The area has a large number of beef cow herds. In the winter season, many farmers feed their herds by scattering baled hay or corn silage on the frozen ground out in the fields. Ground feeding birds utilize the grain seeds, chaff and droppings provided. A heavy snow cover will attract great numbers to feed after the cattle. Birds commonly seen are Meadowlark, Horned Lark, Common Grackle, Red-winged Blackbird, Mourning Dove, Lapland Longspur, and even the Flicker.

The roadsides of the area provide more cover than those of some other areas of the state. Most of the roads have by now been regraded and surfaced with gravel. The fences were set back to make a wide 80 foot right of way. The roadbed was elevated, and a wide, deep drainage channel was dug on each side. In this hilly area these side drainage channels tend to erode seriously, with the result that in most cases it is difficult or impossible to mow the roadsides. So, more than in some other parts of the state, the roadsides grow up in grass, weeds, brush and trees. This provides nesting cover in summer and food and shelter in winter. It makes for convenient auto birding, with one bit of advice, however. Just remember to always be entirely on your right hand half of the road at the top of every little hill. You might be the next auto casualty.

There are a few other regional differences which might be mentioned. All drainage ways here tend to form gullies. To the extent this prevents fence to fence plowing and fence to fence mowing it is a boon to bird life. We have wide diversity of habitat within short distances, level crop land, rolling crop land, rolling pasture land, untillable pasture and brush, scattered timber. Each is attractive to a different group of bird life. At one time we had more bridges, large and small, than any other area of the state. Every bridge had a pair of Eastern Phoebe nesting under it. The bridges have been replaced by corrugated steel tubes, some of which now

have Barn Swallows nesting in them. We now have very few farm evergreen windbreaks, and very few of the large evergreen plantings found in some city cemeteries or parks. We have very little natural marsh and very little solid, heavy timber. In summary, the bird habitat in southern Iowa is highly diversified, and many things contribute to a satisfactory level of food, cover, and protection.

The most productive area for birding is probably the **State Game Area** about 5 miles southwest of Mt. Ayr. Routes to it are plainly marked by signs on each highway on the north and the east of it. It covers about 1,200 acres. It provides a variety of habitat as follows, - 50 acre lake, an area of marsh, some heavy timber, some hill timber, grassy open fields, about 30 farm ponds, and miles of belt plantings of trees, shrubs, and food plants alternated to provide the greatest amount of "edge". Summer birding here is o.k., but the area is crowded with hunters in the fall hunting season.

Green Valley State Park and lake at Creston has the largest water area, and attracts the greatest concentration of waterfowl. Directions to it are plainly marked from the highway northwest of Creston.

Nine Eagles State Park is reached by paved highway south and east of the town of Davis City. It is about 1,000 acres in extent, including a 70 acre tree lined lake. The remainder of the park is very hilly and is entirely covered with second growth oak and hickory timber. Excellent public camping is available here. A pair of Whistling Swans stayed on the lake for a month one recent autumn. The park should have resident Long-eared Owls.

Slip Bluff County Park of 200 acres is located on Grand River on the east side of I-35. It can be entered on foot from the northbound I-35 rest area adjacent to the park. To drive to the park it is necessary to go to the Lamoni interchange and follow the road signs from there. This park also has excellent public camping facilities. It has some hill timber, some abandoned farm fields, a 15 acre lake, and a quarter mile of river bank on Grand River. This is possibly one of the better places in the state to hear and to see Whip-poor-wills.

Lake Lashane, 2 miles northwest of Lamoni, has 100 acres of water, and another 100 acres surrounding it in long grass and cover. The lake is a mile long and the public highway crosses it in the middle. From this causeway there is a good view of water and shore birds in season. Also at Lamoni, there is another lake of 30 acres, and three sewage lagoons totalling about as much.

Osceola has a city lake nearby of about 60 acres. Afton also has a city lake. Mt. Ayr has an 80 acre city lake and also ponds of a state fish hatchery nearby, both of which are reached by state highway 344 north of town. Poe Hollow County Park of 80 acres lies three miles east of Mt. Ayr on highway 2. It is a handy park with some light timber.

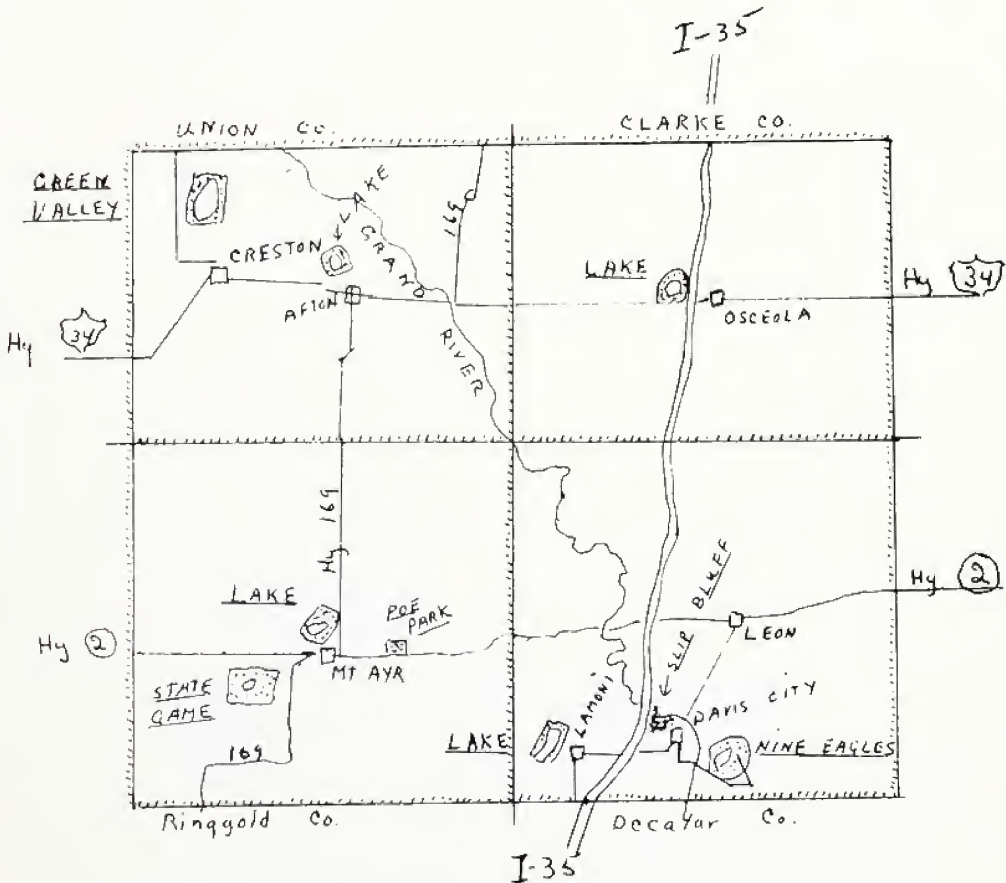
Thompson Fork Grand River is the largest stream in the four county area. It enters the north side of Union County, flows southeast past the four county intersection, and on southeast through Decatur County past Davis City, leaving the area five miles south of that town. The river has some shore line timber. It has never been ditched or straightened north of Davis City. It is a fair canoe stream north of that place in times of a little rise in the river. There is surely no finer means of birding than floating slowly and silently downstream in a canoe.

Lamoni has had an active group of I.O.U. members for over 15 years of about 7 or 8. We list about 35 species on the Christmas census each year. Mrs. W. C. DeLong, of Lamoni, has done a lot of bird banding.

Although there may not be as many published records for this part of the state, we do have our share of the birds, and they are here for anyone alert to what he

sees. The following unusual species have been observed on the same small farm over a period of 15 years --- Snowy Owl, Lark Bunting, Western Kingbird, Goshawk, Upland Plover, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Golden Plover, Henslow's Sparrow, Bohemian Waxwing, Red Crossbill, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Barn Owl, Water Pipit, Snow Bunting, Short-eared Owl, and Lapland Longspur. We can surely assume that the same large variety of species can be seen at some time or other on each of the 2,000 square miles of the area.

Southern Iowa, with its pastures, is Upland Plover country; with its hedgerows, shrike country, . . . its multiflora rose, Mockingbird country; with its scattered timber, Great Horned Owl and Red-tailed Hawk country. Best of all, it has plenty of room for man and bird alike.



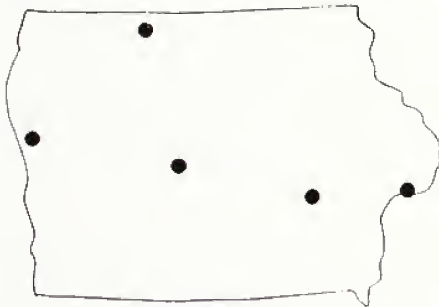
The Lure of the List

Part 3

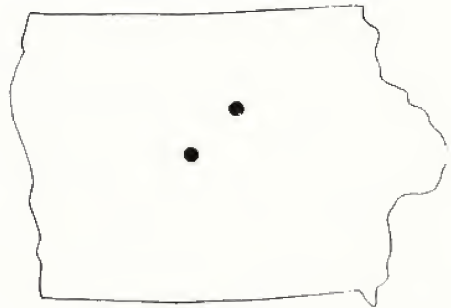
WOODWARD H. BROWN
432 Tonawonda Dr.
DES MOINES, IOWA

GLOSSY IBIS

The tendency of this western breeder to disperse after nesting brings it into Iowa occasionally. It has been recorded principally in the western and central sections, with records from Johnson Co. in 1954 and 1960, and from Credit Island in 1957. 1960, Coralville, Johnson Co.; 1963, Salix, Woodbury Co. and High Lake, Emmet Co.; 1964, Goose Lake, Greene Co.



Glossy Ibis



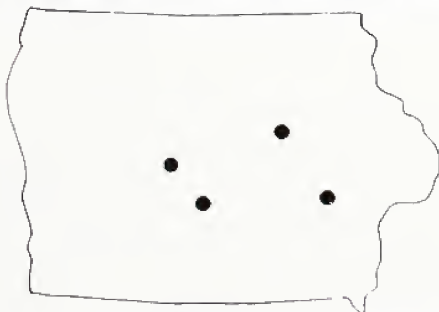
Knot

KNOT

There are only two recent records, both in May, 1967. Goose Lake, Green Co.; Big Wall Lake, Wright Co.

AVOCET

Recent observations have been in April and May, and in the central part of the state. 1962, Iowa City, Johnson Co.; 1965, Polk Co.; 1966, Sweet's Marsh, Blackhawk Co.; 1967, Dunbar Slough, Greene Co.



Avocet



Chuck-Will's-Widow

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW

This southern species has been found as far north as Wildcat Den State Park, Muscatine County, and the nest has been found near Ottumwa. It could very well be nesting in other areas in the south.

Variation in the Horizontal Distribution of Downy Woodpeckers

LEONARD M. SMITH

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OSKALOOSA, IOWA

The Downy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos pubescens*) is considered to be a permanent resident or non-migratory species. Lawrence (1967) has indicated that it was migratory. In a study area near Vermillion, South Dakota, quantified positions of marked birds revealed differences in the horizontal distribution of male and female Downy Woodpeckers as well as suggesting migration (Smith, 1971).

Field trips were made daily during a two-year period (1968-69) and a color marking program was undertaken during a one-year period (1969-70). All birds were caught in drop traps (Smith, 1970).

During the field trips, binoculars and a portable tape recorder were used. Field notes were recorded on tape and then transferred to written form as soon as possible. All field positions of the birds were quantified by using field maps.

The study area was a flat wooded area on the flood plain approximately two miles from the Missouri River, and two miles west of Vermillion, South Dakota (T. 91 N., 52 W., Sec. 15). The more common trees were Elms (*Ulmus rubra*, *Ulmus americana*, and *Ulmus pumila*), Cottonwoods (*Populus sargentii*), Willows (*Salix amygdaloides*), and Dogwoods (*Cornus drummondii*). Dense stands of Cottonwoods along the Missouri River were one-half mile to the South, but all area directly around the study area was open farm land.

Six Downy Woodpeckers were marked and only those six were seen during the field trips. Three of them were observed in the study area for a longer period than the others (Table 1).

The female (F1) could have paired with the male (M1), because of the similar time they were seen in the study area and because of several other observations. After February 7, 1970, F1 was restricted to one part of the study area when before that she had been seen throughout the area. After January 1, 1970, F1 was followed by M1 on several occasions. M2 after January 1, 1970, was confined to the section of the study area where F1 and M1 were no longer seen. On March 1, 1970, in one corner of the section restricted to F1 and M1, M1 was seen chasing an unidentified male Downy. After March 1, 1970, it became difficult to approach and identify individual Downy Woodpeckers, however, M1 and F1 were seen together in the same trees several days in March.

After March, 1970, no marked birds were seen in two study areas, however, unmarked Downies were seen. At no time after March during the two years were Downies observed as often as during the colder months. In the autumn as the temperature drops more observations of Downy Woodpeckers were made. At no time in South Dakota during the more severe winter conditions was there any conflict seen between individual Downy Woodpeckers. Males and females were seen in the same trees without showing any sustained aggressive behavior. Starting about February these amiable conditions ceased to exist, when F1 and M1 appeared to establish the territory described above.

TABLE 1. Sightings of Individual Birds

Individual Bird	First Seen	Last Seen
F1	12-16-1969	4-6-1970
F2	1-2-1970	1-24-1970
M1	12-26-1969	3-28-1970
M2	1-5-1970	3-14-1970
M3	1-29-1970	3-26-1970
M4	1-31-1970	3-14-1970

Lawrence (1967) in Canada found most Downy Woodpeckers she observed were migratory. An interesting comparison shows that March was the arrival period for the Downies she observed. This is the same period when the marked individuals of South Dakota were no longer observed. She also found that the females established an area which was limited to one male. These similarities could imply a northward migration. The South Dakota Downies either migrate (which could include small as well as large distances) or there were behavioral changes which kept them from being seen. Field studies near Oskaloosa, Iowa have not found similar seasonal variations, but continued presence of marked Downies. It would be interesting to know if other banders in northern Iowa find that Downies move out of their areas of observation during the summer months. ---

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 Smith, L. M. 1970. Trapping woodpeckers. *Inland Bird Banding News*, 42:68.
 ———— 1971. Winter Ecology of Woodpeckers and Nuthatches in Southeastern South Dakota. Ph.D. Thesis. University of South Dakota. (Unpublished)

FIELD REPORTS

WINTER, 1972-73

Unusually cold temperatures have prevailed during most of the winter with only the early part of February being slightly warmer than normal. There were more and deeper snows prior to the end of the year than is usually the case. A freezing rain turning into several inches of snow early in January was followed by another eight inches on the 22nd. Alternate freezing and thawing made many unpaved roads impassable and hampered birding in some areas. These reports of the winter season, which should be read in conjunction with the Christmas census reports, also include a few unusual items which properly belonged in the fall migration notes.

The present winter season has not brought the hoped-for winter visitors that appear in some years; no reports of Snowy Owls, few Red-breasted Nuthatches, few crossbills (except in Davenport), Pine Siskins, or redpolls. Evening Grosbeaks are widely reported, but usually in small numbers.

Grebes, Pelicans, Cormorants, Herons, Swans. Three Horned and 2 Pied-billed Grebes were seen on 1 January (LS). Seven White Pelicans were shot at Lamoni on 16 October (DG). A Double-crested Cormorant was observed on 9 December (PP). Great Blue Herons are wintering (RZ, HD, PP). On 26 November, 11 Whistling Swans were on the river below Sabula (PP).

Geese, Ducks. Canada Geese numbering 400 were seen on 26 November (PP). An aerial survey by John Beamer showed 35-40,000 ducks at Forneys Lake on 8 January (fide GB), and Don Priebe reported 20-25,000 Mallards on the Missouri River bottoms (fide RZ), while 400 are wintering below Red Rock Dam (GB). Five Black Ducks were seen on 1 January with 1 Wood Duck. Another Wood Duck was observed on 24 January (LS), and 1 was seen on 24 December (PP). On 26 November there were 3,000 Lesser Scaup on the Mississippi River (PP). An Oldsquaw was seen on 27 October (DG). Mallards seem to increase each year, but there are fewer Goldeneyes and Common Mergansers this year (PP).

Hawks. Very few hawks were seen (RZ), but more than usual (EG). Numerous reports of Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawks (DH). More Cooper's and Sharp-shinned than usual, and a Goshawk observed at 100 feet eating a pheasant (DG). There were evidently 2 Goshawks seen (NH), and another at Davenport (PP). Sparrow and Marsh Hawks are down (PP). Red-tailed fewer, but Rough-legged as usual (NH), but few, if any, of the latter seen in Des Moines. Bald Eagles were down at Davenport but numerous elsewhere along the river (PP); 1 adult seen on 17 December (RZ), 2 a and 1 i below the dam (GB), and two observations (GE).

Bobwhites, Pheasants. Both are abundant (Marie Spears fide RZ, and (NH).

Coots, Avocet. Five Coots were seen on 1 January (LS). A rather late Avocet was seen at Lamoni on 27 October (DG).

Doves, Owls. There is the usual scattering of wintering doves, but an unusual concentration of 300 was seen on 21 January (E. Walters fide RZ). Six reports mentioned a single Long-eared Owl, but of these Gene Armstrong had 5 or 6 last year, with the same number in the cemetery at Swan a year ago (GB). Short-eared are fewer with only three sightings in December (DG). Saw-whets were observed twice at Stone City, and once at Swisher (LS).

Woodpeckers. A Red-shafted Flicker was Riverton on 17 December (EZ). Red-bellied are more numerous than ever (PK). There are lots of Red-headed all over (PP), a flock of 6 was sighted on 20 January at Red Rock (SB), with others seen south of Pella, in Pleasantville, and in the Refuge (GB), and at Marble Rock (PK). Immature Sapsuckers are wintering (EG), (PP).

Larks, Jays, Nutcracker, Crows. Horned Larks are plentiful and now migrating (PP), thought numerous (RZ), and 100 counted in 10 miles (GB), but few were seen in Polk Co. (EP). The Pinyon Jays found on the census had also been seen at local feeders (RZ). In addition to the Clark's Nutcracker described in longer notes, one was seen at Chariton (fide RP). Unusually large flocks of Crows are seen (NH), and flocks of several hundreds appeared in Des Moines in mid-February.

Nuthatches, Wrens. Red-breasted Nuthatches are reported from Iowa City (NH), Waterloo (MB), Lamoni (DG), Des Moines (LW), and Davenport (PP), fewer than usual. There was a Winter Wren in Des Moines (DB). Carolina Wrens appear to be coming back with five reports (EG, PK, MA, HJ, PP).

Mimics, Thrushes. One Mockingbird was present in December and early January (GB), while 4 were seen in one tree on 25 December (DG). A Brown Thrasher was seen all of December (DG), 2 wintered in Des Moines (RMc) and 1 at

Davenport (PP). A Varied Thrush at Storm Lake is described in a longer note (VC).

Kinglets, Waxwings, Shrikes. Golden-crowned Kinglets have been seen (RZ, PP), and wintering Ruby-crowned have been observed in mid-December (JH, RZ). Bohemian Waxwings have been seen with Cedars (DH, EP, FA). Cedar Waxwings have been either rare or seen not at all (RZ, NH). A Northern Shrike was at Palisades State Park (LS).

Warblers, Icterids. A late Myrtle Warbler was observed on 28 November (TS). There are scattered reports of wintering meadowlarks with more than usual at Sioux City (DH). The Rusty Blackbird was seen on 17 December and a Brewer's the same day (RZ) and again two days later (Marie Spears fide RZ). Other Brewer's were seen on 1 and 9 January (GB). Wintering Grackles are seen occasionally, but a flock of 10 or more, unless in a mixed flock, is unusual (PK). There appear more wintering Cowbirds than usual, with numbers varying from individuals to numbers in flocks of Redwings and Grackles. A mixed flock of 7-8,000 had a few dozen Rusty and several hundred Cowbirds (PP).

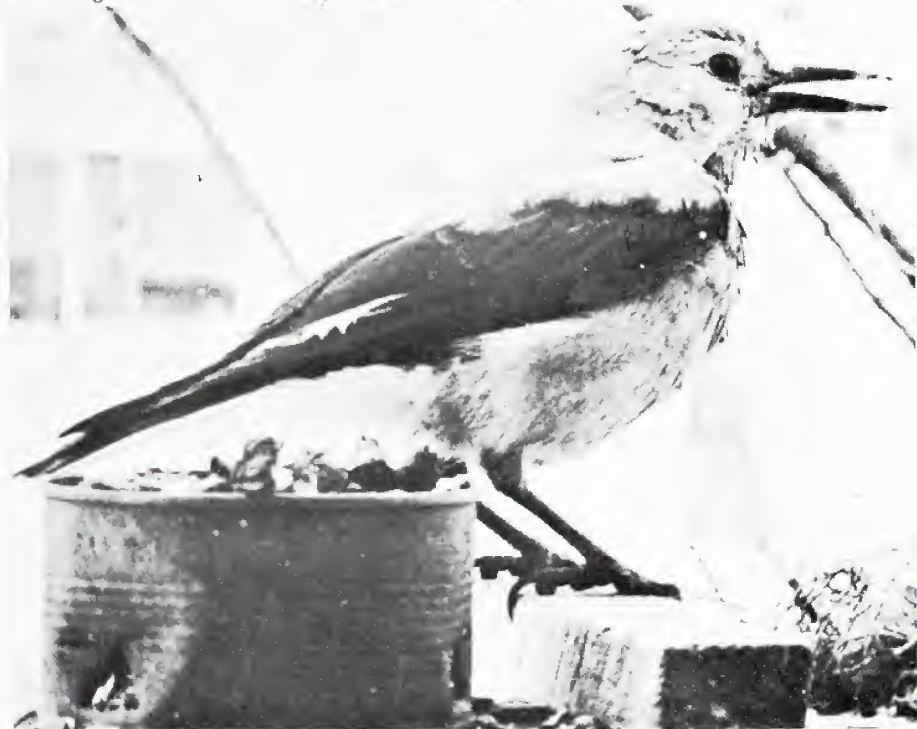
Finches. A female Rose-breasted Grosbeak came to a feeder from 8 December to 2 January, see longer note, (HP), and a male was present for several days in late December (LS). Evening Grosbeaks have been widely distributed, usually in relatively small numbers, but some flocks of 20 (LS), 40 (JW), and 50 (DH, H McKinley fide RP). Many commented upon the absence of Common Redpolls, but four were seen on 5 February (J. Beamer fide GB), another group of four (LS) and one at Marble Rock (PK). Siskins are reported from numerous areas with large flocks (LW, DH, PP). Goldfinches were few and irregular (NH), but more than 100 at a time have been at the Peasleys' feeders. There has been no real Red Crossbill invasion but reports have come from Iowa City (NH), Cedar Rapids (LS), Davenport (PP), and Des Moines (LW,SS). In Sioux City it's more Red than White-winged (DH). Two White-winged Crossbills were seen on 11 February (EP). Towhees are reported (HP, DH, NV, PP). Juncos are thought not numerous (GB, PK), with the Oregon variety seen (GB, NV, LS). Tree Sparrows are fewer (RZ, PK) and not as many Harris' (RZ, NH). A few White-throats wintering in Des Moines (HP, LW) and Davenport (PP). White-crowned were seen twice in the Refuge (GB), and there are some in the Iowa City area (NH). There was only one mention of a single Longspur sighting (DG). Two pairs of Snow Buntings were seen on 22 December (NH), and a single on 24 December (PP).

Contributors: Florence Alton, Oelwein; Gene Armstrong, Booneville; Margaret Augustine, Creston; Allen Buchanan, Algona; Dorothy Brown, Stuart Burns, Des Moines; Myrle Burk, Waterloo; Gladys Black, Pleasantville; Virginia Crocker, Storm Lake; Herb Dorow, Newton; Grace Ehlers, Maquoketa; Mrs. Edw. Getscher, Hamburg; Donald Gillaspey, Lamoni; Dr. N. S. Halmi, Iowa City; Mrs. Darrell Hanna, Sioux City; Helen Johnson, Carlisle; Pearl Knoop, Marble Rock; Russell McBride, Des Moines; Helen Peasley, Elizabeth Peck, Des Moines; Peter Petersen, Davenport; Mrs. Tom Scott, DeWitt; Lillian Serbousek, Cedar Rapids; Larry Stone, West Des Moines; Nola Vander Streek, Pella; Steve Stuart, Lurene Wartens, Jeff Wellander, Des Moines; Ruth Zollars, Shenandoah.

Regrettably, it is impossible to use all of the material submitted for Field Reports which is necessarily confined to listing the more unusual items. These may be defined as species which are unusually scarce or numerous, early or late dates of arrival or departure, or species which are observed only occasionally. All communications are welcome, notwithstanding. Notes on the spring migration should be in by 10 May. Woodward H. Brown, 432 Tonawanda Dr., Des Moines 50312

General Notes

Another Clark's Nutcracker Visits Iowa -- On Saturday morning, December 16th, Gladys Black of Pleasantville phones, excitedly saying, "Herb! You will not believe this! A Clark's Nutcracker came to feed at my window feeder! The last time a Clark's Nutcracker was recorded in Iowa was 1894! "Later we were to learn of the Ottumwa sighting in October. Our first concern was to get a photo record of the bird. My attempts to sight the bird while outdoors and photograph it were futile. We decided to set up a camera inside by the window so that when the bird appeared at the feeder, Gladys could trip the shutter. On December 19th Mrs. Black used up almost a roll of film . . . getting some very fine photos of about a foot-long bird. After a few days, the bird no longer appeared at the window.



Clark's Nutcracker at Pleasantville

Photo by Herb Dorow

Why did this Clark's Nutcracker leave it's high altitude habitat of the Rocky Mountains? In answer to this question, Mrs. Black tells us that it could be a result of an eruption . . . meaning that wild creatures must leave their normal habitat in quest for food. That in this case it could be a failure of the cone crop of the conifers, a vital food supply necessary for them to survive the winter when other food sources are cut off by deep snows. -- HERB DOROW, 1200 S. 8th Ave. Newton

Varied Thrush in Northwest Iowa -- We have a number of bird lovers in Storm Lake, and when one of us sees something interesting, we pass along the information. On Nov. 17, 1972, Mrs. C. H. Johnson telephoned me to say she thought she had a Varied Thrush in her yard. I hurried right over, but the bird was gone. Later in the day, I went back, and there he was! The orange eye-stripe and orange throat contrasting with the black breast band seemed particularly bright in color.

He was a beauty, and there was no doubt as to identification. Two Robins repeatedly tried to chase him away while he was eating fruit of a Hopa Crab. Although I did not get out to see him again, Mrs. Johnson reports he stayed around about a week. A Varied Thrush appeared in this same yard in December of 1968. -- VIRGINIA CROCKER (MRS. E. G.), 720 1st St., Storm Lake.

Whooping Cranes Observed near Adel -- I live in the south edge of Adel, a block east of Hwy 169. The morning of September 21, 1972, was a red-letter day for me. Early that morning there was a sharp drop in temperature. Before sunrise I hiked south across my garden, to my son Don's greenhouses and gladiola field, to find out if the glads had been hurt. While my son and I were standing at the west end of the glad field near one of the greenhouses, Don said "What kind of birds are those?" I looked up, and there above us, not much more than twice treetop height, were three large white birds with the outer part of their wings jet-black. They were flying slowly like the Great Blue Herons when they have just come from the river. The Raccoon River flows along the east side of Adel just a few blocks away, and judging from the time of day and how slow they were traveling, I figured they had probably spent the night somewhere along its banks. I had to tell Don I had no idea what they were. We watched them for the minute or two it took for them to fly over the low hill south of Adel and out of sight. Then I realized I hadn't taken my eyes off those three long enough to learn how many more there were in the irregular flock of birds to the east. But Don told me later that only one other small group of either two or three birds were the same . . . that the others weren't like them, though he hadn't noticed either what kind the big white ones were traveling with, only that they were different. My reason is simple. I have to wear bifocals and my range of clear vision is very limited. If I try to see too much, I end up with all my "watching" blurred, and that can be very frustrating.

After I came back home, I started looking in my bird books for large white shore birds. Of course the Whooping Cranes were there, but they were pictured standing with wings close to their sides with the black all under cover. I finally gave up and I didn't get to the library that week. Then a week later on September 28, the October **Reader's Digest** came. As I am an artist, the first thing I always look at on the Digest is the cover. There were my unidentified birds! Inside, below the editors' names I found the name "Whooping Cranes" by Charles Frace. It still is amazing to me how those black feathers can be so well hidden in photographs as in the **Audubon Nature Encyclopedia** showing them on the Aransas Refuge in Texas. This book said the Whooping Crane used to nest in Iowa a hundred years ago! Who can say that when fall comes again a few won't decide to travel where their ancestors used to live? The human race isn't the only ones that have pioneer blood in their veins. It could be that they feel instinctively that, now that they are protected, they don't have to have so much privacy. I'm going to hear that other birders have sighted them in our territory too. -- AGNES M. HARVEY, 619 Cottage St., Adel.

Pinyon Jay in Shenandoah -- It was a new and unusual bird song that lead Betty Walters and me to investigate the row of pine trees bordering Sam Knittle's backyard in Shenandoah, while counting birds for the Christmas census on Dec. 17, 1972. After scanning the trees with our binoculars for a few minutes, we saw the bird and noted his uniform blue color, the short tail, and robin-size, a Pinyon Jay. As he flew, a second jay followed him.

A few weeks before the Christmas count, Edward May called me to ask about the possibility of another species of jay coming to his feeder, for he and his wife Eleanor had observed this new bird, and after checking their bird books, they

identified it as a Pinyon Jay. This led to our making sure the area was covered during the count. Mr. and Mrs. Sam Knittle have also seen the jays on numerous occasions, and Mr. Wayne Phipps reported seeing the Pinyon Jay at his feeder early in January. Getting a photograph of the birds has been impossible due to their irregular habits. -- MRS. RUTH ZOLLARS, 310 University, Shenandoah.

Crossbills in Iowa in August -- In 1963 there was an invasion of Red Crossbills in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado, because of an abundance of pine cones that year. I learned to know their "pip-pip" call as they were breaking up the cones far up in the pine trees.

Salt, which is an anathema to many birds, seems rather to please the crossbills. In Rocky Mountain National Park they were often found on the ground near an abandoned building of the former Steads Ranch where salt blocks had been placed for the horses. Naturalists leading the bird hikes could be sure to show the visitors a Red Crossbill by taking them to this salty gravel. By putting up a mist net between the gravel and a pole where they often perched, it was easy to net them to band. That summer Allegra Collister, bird banding collaborator for the National Park Service, spent considerable time in the park, and together we banded thirty-nine Red Crossbills. In her book **Birds of Rocky Mountain National Park** published by the Denver Museum of Natural History, she has recorded our experience that summer.

In December, 1965, when Mrs. Collister and I were taking the Christmas Census of Rocky Mountain National Park, I heard that "pip-pip" call as we were driving along in a car and upon stopping and searching, we were able to add many crossbills to our Christmas Census list.

Imagine my surprise on August 16, 1972, to band a Red Crossbill in Iowa! I was banding American Goldfinches that were attracted to the wild sunflowers in my back yard. One morning after putting up a net, I heard a "pip-pip" call in the sunflowers. I did not take time to search, but after going into the house, I kept wondering what that call was. It sounded familiar and I knew it was not the call of goldfinches.

In checking the net from my patio door, I saw two birds in the net. One was definitely a yellow male goldfinch; the other I supposed was a house sparrow. I quickly rushed out to retrieve the goldfinch, tucked him safely into my nylon sack and turned to get the pesky House Sparrow. As I approached the net where he was, I thought, "My, what a large House Sparrow!" Then I saw the yellow plumage on the rump and the crossed bill. I couldn't believe it! A Red Crossbill in Iowa in August! One seldom sees them in winter in Iowa unless there is an invasion from the north country, due to a shortage of food. On August 23, I banded another one. They were both juveniles streaked on the breast with some yellow plumage on the rump.

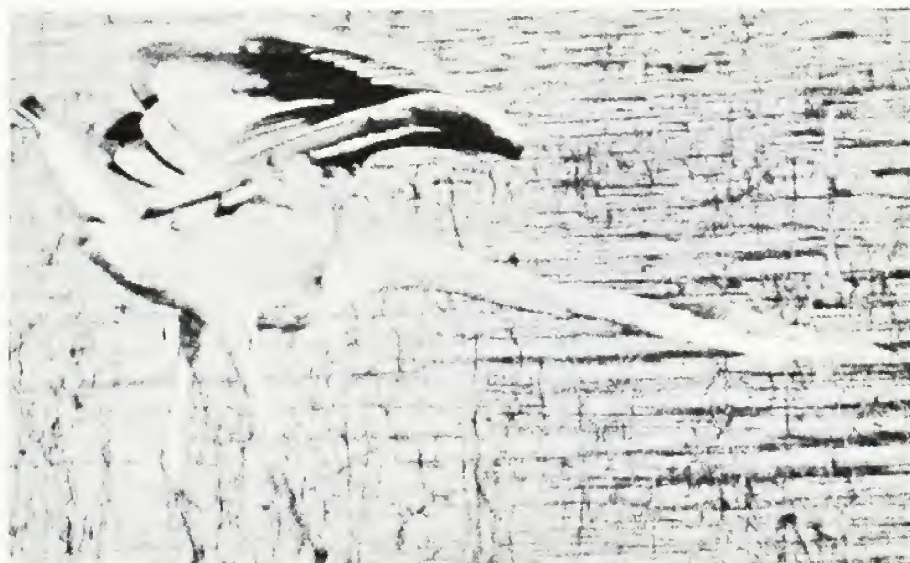
On September 27, a month later, coming back from my banding area, a short distance north of my house, with many birds in nylon sacks, I noticed birds in my net in my back yard and I could see some that were red. I quickly ran to the garage where I grabbed a carrying cage. There were two brick-red males with crossed bills; one beautiful adult female with yellow plumage where the male is red; a young male changing from a yellow and green to red; and a young one with a streaked breast and no color at all.

In a short time six bird watching friends were here to add a Red Crossbill to their life list. And just as I had let the last one go, the mailman came and asked, "Is there such a bird as a Red Grosbeak?" He had seen eight of them on some gravel near the Whispering Pine Motel that morning when delivering mail. And so he, too, added a Red Crossbill to his life list.

On October 2, I saw a flock high up in my neighbor's pine tree, and they were giving that "pip-pip" call as they were busily breaking up the pine cones and extracting the seeds for their morning breakfast. They are often mistaken for a cone as they swing underneath a twig and hang there, head downward partially concealed by the green foliage. A Common Grackle soon disturbed them. As one took wing, the others suddenly wheeled and bounded swiftly away alighting in a compact band in the sunflowers in my back yard. They evidently were a different flock, for not one was wearing a band. MRS. W. C. DE LONG, 314 N. Silver, Lamoni.

A Breakfast Of Fish -- As a boy on a Minnesota farm, the Great Blue Heron was of special interest to me. We had a forty acre marsh that teemed with small wild life. The Great Blue Heron, because of it's size, was perhaps the most conspicuous. Often we would see one of them standing like a sentinel on top of one the Muskrat houses. My brothers and I would enjoy seeing them take off in flight . . . they were so huge . . . at least it seemed that way to us. Nor could we really get a close-up look at them . . . we could not get near them . . . nor did we have binoculars.

Now, in my sixties, I have binoculars . . . and cameras with long lenses to watch these beautiful birds and record their action and beauty on film! And not long ago, I had the good fortune to get up closer than usual to photograph a Great Blue Heron fishing . . . or, should we say . . . having breakfast? It was just before eight thirty in the morning when I spotted the bird stalking it's prey in the shallow waters near old Highway 14. I had to do some quick thinking. The bird would very likely spook if I set up the tripod. The station wagon would have to serve as a camouflage and a tripod. So, easing the wagon to stop as close as possible I shut off the motor and sat very still for several minutes. The heron reacted apprehensive for a bit . . . but after a few minutes it went about it's task of finding more food. Then very cautiously, I slipped out the far-side door of the wagon . . . placed a pillow on the top rack to cushion the heavy lens . . . and began what turned out to be a most interesting one and a half long session.



Great Blue Heron Feeding
Photo by Herb Dorow

Very cautiously the bird treaded in the shallow water . . . suddenly it would stop motionless . . . then it's head would cock slightly . . . then, with almost lightning-like speed the bill would dart forward into the water! Sometimes you'd get to see the flash of the white belly of a small fish flipping in vain before it entered the long passage way of the heron's neck! If you were quick enough to see it, you might even watch a lump moving downward of the bird's neck. One lump took almost thirty seconds before it disappeared. Also, during this time of swallowing it's prey, there usually would also be a certain amount of convulsive tremor of the head and neck . . . sometimes the entire body. My camera shutter speeds were set at one thousandth of a second . . . even this was not enough to keep the bird's head and neck from being blurred . . . as you can see in the photo.

This little session had it's humorous side too! It suddenly turned to a almost submerged log. Very gingerly, the bird stepped up on it . . . then, very slowly side-stepped to the center of the log. The heron cocked it's head from one side to another. Several times I thought it was about to go after whatever was in the water. I did not check the time, but it seemed a long time to me when the bird lunged forward . . . to lose it's footing and land in a heap in the water! After regaining balance, the bird looked at the place where it had just tumbled, for a little bit . . . then, as if with a movement disgust, turned away. After this, it caught a few more fish before went over to another log to set itself down on it, as a tired person would let himself drop into a chair. The Great Blue was very likely full of food, I do not know how many fish it had before I arrived. I counted 17 fish that I was fairly sure it swallowed . . . not counting the times it missed the target. I, too, missed what might have been some very excellent pictures. When I put away the camera gear and opened and closed the car doors, the Great Blue did not seem to mind . . . just stayed sitting there on the log! -- HERD DOROW, 1700 S. 8th Ave. E., Newton.

A Wintering Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Des Moines -- We would like to report the appearance of a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak at our feeders. She was first seen Dec. 7, 1972, beneath our back yard feeder eating sunflower seeds. Soon she began coming daily to a feeder four feet from our kitchen window as often as every half hour throughout the day particularly during snow storms or in very cold weather. She always appeared in excellent condition. We last saw her at 4 P.M. on Jan. 2, 1973, just prior to a severe ice and sleet storm. She did not return the following day or thereafter and we presume she perished as a result of the severe weather.

Another observation of an immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was reported by Mr. Larry Stone, outdoor writer for the Des Moines Register and Tribune to Mr. Woodward H. Brown following the Christmas census. Mr. Stone photographed the bird at his residence in Des Moines and he reports the Grosbeak was not seen following the previously mentioned ice and sleet storm. -- HAROLD AND HELEN PEASLEY, 2001 Nash Drive, Des Moines.

Book Reviews

The Birds of Britain and Europe with North Africa and the Middle East -- Hermann Heinzel, Richard Fitter and John Parslow -- J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia and New York -- 336p., 1,000 birds illustrated in color, 825 maps -- 1972 -- \$7.50.

Another very fine field guide to the birds of Europe joins the ranks with a spot near the top. This guide is similar in many ways to the **Birds of Europe** by Bruun and Singer which was reviewed in *Iowa Bird Life* Vol. 51, p. 114. The format is also somewhat like **A Guide to Field Identification -- Birds of North America** by Robbins, Bruun, Zim and Singer. The plates are very good, quite comparable to Singer's plates in **Birds of Europe**. A comparison between the plates of these two books, the latter mentioned guide and the one being reviewed, selecting familiar North American birds, resulted in preference for an equal number in each guide. In general the colors in Heinzel's book are more vivid and are frequently drawn on a pastel background. The range maps are very clear and colors contrast well. At the end of the book, larger maps of the British Isles enable much more accurate data presentation for that area. The text gives size, both English and metric, voice, habitat and using symbols and letters, status and relative abundance. The contents pages include tiny color drawings which would help the person unfamiliar with European birds locate the proper order or family. ed.

Man and Birds, Evolution and Behavior -- Andrew J. Meyerriecks -- Pegasus, Bobbs -- Merrill Co., Inc., Indianapolis and New York -- 209 p., 48 line drawings -- 1972 -- \$6.95.

A very good introduction to bird evolution and behavior with many examples drawn from recent ornithological research. This book explains some of this research and put it into perspective for the serious amateur. Included is Dr. Milton Weller's work on the parasitic Black-headed Duck of South America. The author draws frequently on his own research on herons.

This book provides students with much food for thought in coming up with research that can lead to significant scientific knowledge. It should be in all college libraries and also most public libraries. ed.

Born to Sing -- An Interpretation and World Survey of Bird Song -- Charles Hartshorne -- Indiana University Press, Bloomington -- 304 p., many text figures and tables -- 1973 -- \$10.00.

The author, primarily a Professor of Philosophy, has studied bird song and animal behavior for over fifty years. In this book he presents the hypothesis that birds music is in some sense and degree for the birds themselves. He believes birds take "pleasure" in their singing and enjoy hearing even their territorial rivals sing. Thus their motivation for singing has to be something more immediate than long-range species survival. He substantiates his thesis with basic facts about bird behavior and explores the relationship of song to the many requirements of a bird's life.

This is a book intended for the serious student of bird song or bird behavior. It is beyond the scope of most public libraries but should be in university libraries. ed.

COVER

The just fledged Robin which graces our 1973 cover is the work of Mr. Gordon Power of Bettendorf. Mr. Power studied at the American Academy of Art and specializes in pointilistic pencil drawings. Created by making dots rather than lines this unusual technique requires the use of up to twelve various leads for a single drawing. The owner of several thoroughbred horses, he began using this art form to depict them and later added birds as subjects. He sells perishable tools such as drill bits in addition to his art and now shows at several galleries including Sportsmens Edge in New York. ed.